

Journey Sticks



Objective

Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees



Equipment

- Sticks (one per child)
- Tree Example work sheet
- Blank Paper (one per child)
- Crayons



Preparation

- Provide each child with a small stick and show them how to correctly spike a leaf to the stick, making sure the leaf is of adequate size and the stick is in the middle of the leaf, and twisting the stick till it breaks through the leaf.
- Provide the groups with an explanation of the area they will be working in during the session. Highlight the areas that are out of bounds and should not be used and any plants that should be avoided, such as nettles.



Instructions

- Provide each child with a stick and instruct them to go around the designated area and collect leaves to spike on their journey stick. Encourage them to get as many different types of leaves e.g. colour, shape and size as possible.
- Explain that they should treat the tree with care, only remove individual leaves and ensure that they avoid damaging them.
- Once each group have had adequate time exploring the area and finding different leaves, bring the groups together. Discuss their findings, talking about the leaf colours, where they were found (on a tree or on the ground), what is their shape and size etc ?
- Take the groups back inside and split the children into smaller working groups. Provide each group with a Tree Example Activity Sheet. Instruct the group to work together to look at the leaves they have collected and see if any of them can be found on the example sheet.
- Distribute blank paper (one per pupil) and adequate crayons for each group. Instruct the children to pick their favourite leaf. Ask them why it is their favourite (size, shape, colour etc). Ask the children to place their favourite leaf under their blank paper sheet and slowly and gently start to rub the crayon over the leaf to create a 'leaf rubbing'.



Other information

- Decrease the amount of time allotted to complete the activity.
- Increase the area the children use to explore when looking for trees.

